

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 /019 R

DRAFTED BY CU/P:ELIBERTI:RLB

APPROVED BY CU/P:GPORTER

CU/WE:RRICHARDS

L/ECP:JBUSHONG

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R 012354Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:CASC (WORLD TRAVEL CENTER; EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL CENTER;

MILLEKER, FREDERICK), OEXC

SUBJECT: WORLD TRAVEL CENTER (WTC)

REFERENCE: UNCLAS PARIS 16690 6/27/75

1. DEPARTMENT REGRETS DELAY IN REPLYING TO REFTEL. WE AWAITED INFORMATION FROM BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU (BBB) OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK WHICH WAS FULLY AWARE OF ORGANIZATION. DEPARTMENT CONTACTED KARL LAUBY OF BBB (212) 989-2120 AT THE URGING OF COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE.

2. FOR EMBASSY USE ONLY, BBB REPORT ON WTC STATES:

"THIS IS A PROPRIETORSHIP OPERATED BY FREDERICH C. MILLEKER.

"THE ORGANIZATION WAS ESTABLISHED IN JUNE 1972 AND HAS BEEN KNOWN TO BBB SINCE APRIL 1973.

"THE ORGANIZATION CHARGES AN ADVANCE FEE FOR OVERSEAS JOB PLACEMENT, USUALLY IN WESTERN EUROPE.

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STANDARDS OF BUSINESS PRACTICE. TO MEET THESE STANDARDS,

BUREAU FILES MUST SHOW A SATISFACTORY RECORD, WHICH INCLUD-

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ES PROMPT REPLY AND PROPER CONSIDERATION TO CUSTOMER COMPLAINTS ON ADVERTISING AND SELLING PRACTICES.

"SPECIFICALLY, BUREAU FILES SHOW THAT THE FIRM HAS FAILED TO RESPOND TO ALL OR MOST CONSUMER COMPLAINTS PRESENTED TO IT BY THIS BUREAU AND COMPLAINANTS TO THIS BUREAU ALLEGE THAT THEY PAID ADVANCE FEES, BUT GOT NO JOBS AND CANNOT GET REFUNDS IN ACCORD WITH THE CONTRACT OR COMPANY'S PROMISE OF REFUNDS.

"COMPLAINANTS SHOULD WRITE TO THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, 80 LAFAYETTE STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10013. ALSO WRITE TO THE PUBLISHER OF THE PUBLICATION IN WHICH THE COMPANY'S AD APPEARED AND RELATE YOUR EXPERIENCE."

3. DISCUSSION WITH LAUBY REVEALED THAT THE COMPANY SEPARATES THE AU PAIR PROGRAM FROM ITS OTHER PROGRAMS. AN ADVANCE FEE IS REQUIRED FOR BOTH PROGRAMS. BBB PASSED ON THE COMPLAINTS OF NO JOBS OR REFUNDS TO THE MAGAZINES KNOWN TO BE RUNNING THE ADS AND UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ADS STOPPED. GIRLS MAY HAVE RESPONDED TO OLD ADS AND SIGNED UP FOR THE PROGRAM. BBB ALSO REFERRED ITS INFORMATION TO THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF THE POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE IN NEW YORK, HEROLD SEYMOUR (212) 971-7735 AND POSSIBLE MAIL FRAUD IS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THAT SERVICE.

4. DEPARTMENT RELAYED REFTTEL TO BBB. NO REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM OTHER POSTS ON THIS ORGANIZATION. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR FURTHER REPORTS ON WTC.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE182742
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ELIBERTI:RLB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750267-1018
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750888/aaaadadm.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PARIS 16690
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD TRAVEL CENTER (WTC)
TAGS: CASC, OEXC, (MILLEKER, FREDERICK)
To: PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006